

Chronic Lyme Disease

Representative Hargraves of Groton moved that the bill be amended after Section 21 (as printed) by adding the following section:-

SECTION XX. Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 12CC the following section:-

Section.12DD. As used in this section, long-term antibiotic therapy shall be the administration of oral, intramuscular or intravenous antibiotics singly or in combination, for periods of time in excess of 4 weeks. Lyme disease is the clinical diagnosis by a physician licensed under section 2 of chapter 112 of the presence in a patient of signs or symptoms compatible with acute infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* or with late stage or persistent or chronic infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* or with complications related to such infection or with such other strains of *Borrelia* that after adoption of this bill, are recognized by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a cause of Lyme disease. Lyme disease includes an infection that meets the surveillance criteria set forth by said CDC, and it also includes a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease that does not meet the CDC surveillance criteria but includes other acute and chronic signs and/or symptoms of Lyme disease as determined by the treating physician. Such clinical diagnosis is based on knowledge obtained through medical history and physical examination alone, or in conjunction with testing that provides supportive data for such clinical diagnosis.

A licensed physician may prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy for a therapeutic purpose that eliminates such infection or controls a patient's symptoms upon making a clinical diagnosis that such patient has Lyme disease or displays symptoms consistent with a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease, provided such clinical diagnosis and treatment are documented in the patient's medical record by such licensed physician.

~~No physician shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Registration in Medicine solely for prescribing, administering or dispensing long term antibiotic therapy for a therapeutic purpose for a patient clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease if the diagnosis and treatment has been documented by the treating physician in the physician's medical record for that patient.~~